

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 SSM-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
/122 W
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INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAIRO 10350

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR US EG IS
SUBJECT: AHRAM THINK PIECE ON U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

SUMMARY: APRIL 7 AHRAM HAS LONG ARTICLE FROM
AHRAM POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER ENTITLED
"U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, ITS LIMITS AND OBJECTIVES."
ARTICLE EXPLAINS U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL BY U.S.
CONCEPTION THAT THIS SERVES AMERICAN INTERESTS. IT
CONCLUDES U.S. PRESSURES ISRAEL ONLY WHEN CONSIDERATION
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OF U.S. INTERESTS AS WHOLE COMPEL U.S. TO DO SO AND
WHEN ISRAELI BEHAVIOR AT "EXTREME END." ANALYST RE-
MINDS HIS READERS THAT U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL ALWAYS
ACCOMPANIED BY RENEWED U.S. COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT.
HE SAYS U.S. NOW PUTTING SOME LIGHT FORM OF PRESSURE
ON ISRAEL AND CONCLUDES THAT IF PRESSURE INCREASES,
U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL WILL ALSO INCREASE, PERHAPS

EVEN RESULTING IN U.S.-ISRAELI DEFENSE TREATY IN RETURN FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. AUTHOR ASKS IN CONCLUSION WHETHER "ARAB SIDE READY FOR THIS?" END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. AHRAM ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY OSMAN EL GAZALI HARB FROM POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER, ENTITLED "U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, ITS LIMITS AND AIMS". HARB BEGINS BY NOTING THAT GETTING U.S. TO PRESSURE ISRAEL IS GOAL OF ARAB DIPLOMACY AND BY ASKING WHETHER U.S. WILLING EXERT SUCH PRESSURE. HARB TRIES ANSWER QUESTION BY ANALYZING WHY U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL IN THE FIRST PLACE, REJECTING THEORIES EXPLAINING THIS RESULT ZIONIST PRESSURE OR MORAL COMMITMENT. CONCLUDES U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL BECAUSE IT BELIEVES SUPPORT PROMOTES U.S. INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HARB ARGUES IF SUPPORT TO BE DIMINISHED, AND IF U.S. TO PRESSURE ISRAEL, IT WILL BE BECAUSE U.S. HAS CONCLUDED THAT AIDING ISRAEL NO LONGER SAFEGUARDS U.S. INTERESTS.

2. U.S. PRESSURE. HARB CONSIDERS PAST CASES IN WHICH U.S. HAS PRESSURED ISRAEL, CITING 1956 SUEZ CRISIS AND OCTOBER 1973 WAR. HARB CONCLUDES U.S. EXERTS PRESSURE ON ISRAEL ONLY IN RESPONSE TO A CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION, TO OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS. FURTHERMORE, PRESSURE COMES "AT THE LAST

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MOMENT AFTER ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR REACHES THE EXTREME END." THIRDLY, AMERICAN PRESSURE ALWAYS ACCCOMPANIED BY STRONG RENEWAL OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, BOTH TANGIBLE AND MORAL.

3. PROSPECTS. IN LIGHT OF THESE CONCLUSIONS, HARB SEES CURRENT MOVES BY U.S. AS "THIRD EXPERIMENT" BUT, SO FAR, PRESSURE HAS TAKEN "EXTREMELY FLIMSY FORM," CONFINED TO THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD AND TO "MORAL REPROACH." ONE FORM OF PRESENT PRESSURE CITED IS LINKING ARMS FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA. DEAL IS "UNPRECEDENTED" AND "ONE IMPORTANT FORM OF PRESSURE". HE CONCLUDES PRESENT PRESSURE REFLECTS THE CLASSICAL PATTERN: U.S. INTERESTED IN LARGER INTERESTS, SAFEGUARDING PRESTIGE RESULTING FROM DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN AREA DEVELOPMENTS AND WARD OFF CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE FOR PEACE EFFORT. MOREOVER, PRESSURE CAME ONLY AFTER ISRAEL FORCED "TO REVEAL HER GREEDY AMBITIONS" ON THE SINAI, WEST BANK, GOLAN, AND NOW LEBANON. NONETHELESS, IMPORTANT THING IS PRESSURE EXERTED IN EASIEST FORM, FACILITATING ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAEL.

4. IN CONCULUSION, HARB NOTES THAT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL COMES AT SAME TIME US HAS MADE IT CLEAR IT WOULD NOT CUT MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID; ON THE CONTRARY, U.S. HAS TIED AID SUPPLY TO ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. U.S. DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE PROCESS MAY PERHAPS LEAD TO DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL IF THIS SEEN AS SECURING COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. HARB SAYS IT DIFFICULT TO SEE U.S. MAKING SUCH AGREEMENT IN RETURN FOR A PARTIAL OR LIMITED PEACE. THE WRITER CONCLUDES BY ASKING "IS THE ARAB SIDE READY FOR THIS?" EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDIES, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO10350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780153-0398
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacofp.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ab4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3031088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AHRAM THINK PIECE ON U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL SUMMARY: APRIL 7 AHRAM HAS LONG ARTICLE FROM AHRAM POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER ENTIT
TAGS: PEPR, US, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ab4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014